

sections where pin holes are randomly bored through a light blocking mask, and an aperture section having an area k^2 times greater than the area of the random pin hole pattern sections and allowing any light to pass therethrough. The beam of light reflected by the specimen is made to enter a CCD camera by way of the objective lens, the rotary disk, the half mirror and a condenser lens. The CCD camera is adapted to selectively pick up a composite image containing a confocal image component and a non-confocal image component of the specimen obtained through the random pin hole pattern sections and a conventional image of the specimen obtained through the aperture section. Then, a CPU carries out an arithmetic operation of subtracting the conventional image data from the composite image data by means of a difference program to produce a confocal image of the specimen.

IN THE SPECIFICATION;

Page 1, below the title, insert the following paragraph:

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